

Inventor: J. Michael Salbaum
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AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) An isolated Nope polypeptide, or functional fragment thereof, comprising the amino acid sequence of a Nope polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:2), or a modification thereof.

2. (Withdrawn) The isolated Nope polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said functional fragment comprises the amino acid sequence of a Nope polypeptide extracellular domain (SEQ ID NO:4).

3. (Withdrawn) The isolated Nope polypeptide of claim 2, wherein said functional fragment comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulin domain 1 (SEQ ID NO:8), immunoglobulin domain 2 (SEQ ID NO:10), immunoglobulin domain 3 (SEQ ID NO:12), immunoglobulin domain 4 (SEQ ID NO:14), fibronectin domain 1 (SEQ ID NO:16), fibronectin domain 2 (SEQ ID NO:18), fibronectin domain 3 (SEQ ID NO:20), fibronectin domain 4 (SEQ ID NO:22), and fibronectin domain 5 (SEQ ID NO:24).

4. (Withdrawn) The isolated Nope polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said functional fragment comprises the amino acid sequence of a Nope polypeptide intracellular domain (SEQ ID NO:6).

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5. (Withdrawn) An antibody that specifically binds the Nope polypeptide of claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn) The antibody of claim 5, wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

7. (Withdrawn) The antibody of claim 5, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a Nope polypeptide, comprising contacting a sample with the antibody of claim 5, and detecting specific binding of said antibody.

9. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a Nope polypeptide having the amino acid sequence referenced as SEQ ID NO:2 and having a Nope polypeptide activity, or a modification [thereof] of the encoding nucleic acid sequence.

10. (Currently amended) [An] The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 9 comprising the nucleotide sequence referenced as SEQ ID NO:1, or a modification [thereof] of said nucleotide sequence.

11. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group

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consisting of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23.

12. (Currently amended) A Nope oligonucleotide[, **comprising**] **consisting of** between [15 and] 300 and 350 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or the anti-sense strand thereof.

13. (Currently amended) The isolated Nope oligonucleotide of claim 12, wherein said oligonucleotide [**comprises**] **consists of** between [15 and] 300 and 350 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:5 or the anti-sense strand thereof.

14. (Original) A vector comprising an expression element operationally linked to the nucleotide sequence of claim 10.

15. (Withdrawn) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 13.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a Nope nucleic acid molecule in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with a Nope oligonucleotide of claim 12 under conditions allowing specific hybridization to a Nope nucleic acid molecule, and detecting said specific hybridization.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a Nope nucleic acid molecule in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with a Nope oligonucleotide of claim 13 under conditions allowing

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specific hybridization to a Nope nucleic acid molecule, and detecting said specific hybridization.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a Nope nucleic acid molecule in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with two or more Nope oligonucleotides of claim 12, amplifying a nucleic acid molecule, and detecting said amplification.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said amplification is performed using polymerase chain reaction.

20. (Currently amended) A kit comprising one or more Nope oligonucleotides [**comprising between 15 and** consisting of at least 300 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or the anti-sense strand thereof.

Please add the following new claims.

21. (New) The Nope oligonucleotide of claim 12, wherein said oligonucleotide is 300 to 325 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or the anti-sense strand thereof.

22. (New) The Nope oligonucleotide of claim 12, wherein said oligonucleotide is 325 to 350 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or the anti-sense strand thereof.

23. (New) The Nope oligonucleotide of claim 13, wherein said oligonucleotide is 300 to 325 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:5 or the anti-sense strand thereof.

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24. (New) The Nope oligonucleotide of claim 13, wherein said oligonucleotide is 325 to 350 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:5 or the anti-sense strand thereof.

25. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a Nope polypeptide amino acid sequence referenced as SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, said nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence referenced as SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 26, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23.

28. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:3.

29. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:5.

30. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:7.

31. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:9.

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32. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:11.

33. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:13.

34. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:15.

35. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:17.

36. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:19.

37. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:21.

38. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:23.

39. (New) A vector comprising an expression element operationally linked to the nucleotide sequence of claim 25.

40. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 39.

41. (New) A vector comprising an expression element operationally linked to the nucleotide sequence of claim 26.

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42. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of
claim 41.